

## **Innovative proposal will result in better roads**

Gov. Mitch Daniels' plan to allow a private firm to operate the Indiana Toll Road while using funds from leasing it to invest in infrastructure is a win-win for taxpayers and motorists.

Although drivers pay for road construction and upkeep when they fill up at the pump, for a number of reasons (including congressional mismanagement and restrictive labor rules like Davis-Bacon), this process is often more costly than necessary. In Indiana, the transportation budget is \$2.8 billion less than needed.

As an alternative to increasing gas taxes, tolling can leverage the private sector to improve infrastructure.

These agreements must be carefully designed to protect taxpayers and road users from abuse, especially at the hands of bureaucracies. Experience has shown that state tolling agencies are notoriously inefficient and revenue from state toll roads often gets shifted from road construction and maintenance to mass transit and general fund uses.

Major Moves avoids the pitfalls so often associated with toll roads and will result in better roads for the state.

Taxpayers should support this innovative proposal.

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